

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY.

C. L. ALSBERG, Chief of Bureau.

SERVICE AND REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS. SUPPLEMENT.

N. J. 8501-8550.

[Approved by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., February 28, 1921.]

NOTICES OF JUDGMENT UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

[Given pursuant to section 4 of the Food and Drugs Act.]

8501. Misbranding of Beecham's Pills. U. S. * * * v. 117 Dozen Cartons of Beecham's Pills. Consent decree of condemnation and forfeiture. Product released on bond.
(F. & D. No. 11051. I. S. No. 2937-r. S. No. W-470.)

On August 22, 1919, the United States attorney for the Northern District of California, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district a libel for the seizure and condemnation of 117 dozen cartons of Beecham's Pills, remaining in the original unbroken packages at San Francisco, Calif., alleging that the article had been shipped by B. F. Allen, New York, N. Y., June 20, 1919, and transported from the State of New York into the State of California, and charging misbranding in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, as amended.

Analysis of a sample of the article by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed that it consisted of white pills coated with talc and composed essentially of aloes and ginger.

Misbranding of the article was alleged in substance in the libel for the reason that it was labeled in part on the wrapper, "Beecham's Pills * * * Sold by the Proprietor, St. Helen's, Lancashire, England," which was false and misleading, and the article was falsely branded as to the country in which it was manufactured and produced, in that it was of domestic origin. Misbranding was alleged in substance for the further reason that the article, which might be used as a drug, was labeled in part on the circular, "* * * the most reliable family medicine procurable * * * specific to be depended on defeating those evils which usually assail health in our daily life and if taken in time they will ward off many a serious illness * * * the blood * * * We may all by the aid of Beecham's Pills keep important organs of the body in working order * * * should anyone be suffering from overindulgence be he ever so ill or his head so bad let him take a dose of Beecham's Pills and he will be all right in the morning * * *," which statements were false and fraudulent in that the article contained no ingredient or combination of ingredients capable of producing the curative and therapeutic effects claimed for it.

On September 6, 1919, the B. F. Allen Co., New York, N. Y., claimant, having consented to a decree, judgment of condemnation and forfeiture was entered, and it was ordered by the court that the product be released to said claimant upon payment of the costs of the proceedings and the execution of a bond in the sum of \$250, in conformity with section 10 of the act.

E. D. BALL, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*